THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD AT HOLY FAMILY HIGH SCHOOL ON**

**MONDAY 5th JUNE 2017**

**Present:** Councillors Hounsell (Chair), Bain, Chambers, Cooke, Miles and Pennington (until item 4 on the agenda).

**Also present:** Mrs Jones (clerk

**1126** **To receive apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Ward Councillor Kelly and Rev K Rogers.

**1127** **To receive** **declarations of interest:** Councillors Bain and Chambers declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 on the agenda “To discuss the planning application for a hot food outlet at The Crescent”. Both Councillors requested a dispensation to participate in both the discussion and vote for this item which was granted by the Council.

**1128 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 8rd May 2017**:

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and were then signed by the Chair.

**1129 Public Participation:**

The Chairman welcomed 14 members of the public and the following was discussed:

* Councillor Hounsell sought the views of the members of the public present on the resubmission of an application for a Hot Food outlet at 6 The Crescent. He provided the details of the application - outlining a change in opening hours from the original application and also a change in the position of extractor fans. Councillor Hounsell also detailed the reasons for a previous refusal for a similar application at another premises on The Crescent in order to provide a context. This was followed by a full discussion from both Parish Councillors and members of the public with arguments both for and against the application being voiced. Arguments for the application included a possible increase in footfall for the businesses at The Crescent, and the provision of an amenity for the local area, while arguments against the application included a possible increase in litter and anti-social behaviour and difficulties with increased traffic. Councillor Hounsell thanked the members of the public present for their contributions to the discussion.
* There was also a discussion about the use of social media by the council and it was suggested that there had been a lack of impartiality in using this vehicle in relation to the hot food planning application. In particular it was suggested that the use of Facebook to conduct a poll had been inappropriate. Councillor Chambers advised that the intention of the poll was to gauge opinion and would have no bearing on any vote taken by the Parish Council. It was felt that a policy to regulate the use of Social Media was needed and the Clerk undertook to explore this.
* It was noted that fly posters were appearing all over the local area. A member of the public had reported this to Sefton Council and other residents were also encouraged to report this.
* Quad bikes had been seen in the area around Holgate causing damage to plants and fields. The public were encouraged to report incidences to Merseyside Police.
* Pathways in the area, particularly around Orchard Cottage and also Brooms Cross towards Lunt Village were becoming very overgrown with brambles and the Clerk was to write to Sefton Council to report this.

**1130 Matters Arising (for information only)**

There were no matters arising

**1131 To discuss the planning application for a hot food outlet at 6 The Crescent**

Following a discussion the Parish Council voted to oppose the application for a Hot Food outlet at 6 The Crescent with 2 votes in favour of the application, 3 against and one abstention. Councillor Hounsell was to convey the decision to the Planning Department at Sefton Council.

**1132 To Receive Reports from**:

***Sefton Central Area Committee*** There was no report given.

1. ***Parishes***

Councillor Miles advised that the 10 Parishes were undertaking a review of the partnership document from 2008 and comments were invited.

**1133 Chairman’s Update:**

* Cllr Hounsell was to speak to representatives from St Leonard’s Community Centre in respect of the dispersal of funds from the Edward Holme Trust.
* The Stocks and Sundial project was almost complete and Councillor Hounsell was to provide a report to the Heritage Lottery Fund.
* The boundary planters had been re-planted for the summer although one had been vandalised. Councillor Hounsell advised that one of the Parish Councillors would need to take responsibility for the planters as a member of the public had had to step in to water the plants and repair the vandalised one.

**1134 To Review the decision to increase the frequency of Parish Council Meetings to a monthly basis.**

It was considered that insufficient time had elapsed to effectively review this decision and the area would be re-visited at the July meeting.

**1135 Finance**

It was agreed to pay the following invoices:

Mrs J Jones Clerk’s Salary £184.55

School Lettings Room Hire £50.00

Batten Hughes (internal audit) £144.00

Plantscape (Summer planting) £235.20

**1136 Planning and Correspondence:**

The Clerk read out correspondence received from Sefton’s Planning Department.

**1137 To review areas of responsibility for individual councillors.**

Councillors Hounsell and Cooke were to look at this issue to form both a plan for the Parish Council and also areas of responsibility for individual Councillors going forward.

**1138 To Review the future of the Parish Council**

Cllr Hounsell reiterated the difficulties in representing people effectively at local level under the existing structure of the Parish Council and the possibilities of extending the Parish boundary or merging with neighbouring Parish Councils were suggested. Councillor Hounsell advised that he was in the process of compiling a document to address the future of the Parish Council.

**1139 To Provide an update on the Elm Farm/Rothwells Lane planning Application**

Councillor Cooke advised that while the application had been approved with conditions and was not to be called in by the National Planning Casework Unit, some positives had arisen from the process, in particular the coming together of the local community. He also reiterated his disappointment with the Planning process and the seemingly little regard given to objections from members of the public.

Councillor Hounsell advised that he had written to Sajid Javid, Minister for Communities regarding the process but had yet to receive a reply, perhaps due to the imminent general election.

**1140 To discuss weed spraying in the area.**

It was noted that the pavements in the area had been sprayed but the gutters had not. The Clerk was to write to Sefton Council to request a copy of the weed spraying schedule for the area.

**1141 To provide an update regarding Queen’s Torch Lighting**

Cllr Pennington had left the meeting prior to this item and so was unable to provide an update on this issue.

**1142 To provide an update regarding the provision of a Christmas tree for 2017**

Cllr Chambers advised that the two public houses in the Parish had expressed an interest in becoming involved in the “switch on” of the tree this year although no firm commitment had been made. Rev Kath Rogers had agreed to provide a choir and refreshments.

**1143 Update from Councillors**

* Councillor Chambers advised that he had received communication from Sefton Council detailing how consultation regarding the results of the Thornton Corridor Study to assess the traffic impact following the opening of Brooms Cross Road will be carried out. The documentation was to be added to the Parish Council’s website and members of the public were encouraged to become involved in all aspects of the consultation.
* There had again been several incidents of criminal behaviour noted in the area Councillor Bain reiterated his advice to keep key fobs from front door to properties and to use alternative security devices such as steering locks.
* The Clerk advised that she had received correspondence from the Post Office confirming that the post office in Crosby Village would be moving to McColl’s Newsagents and would be opening on a Sunday from 0900 to 1600.

**1144 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the meeting would take place on **Monday, 3rd July 2017 at 7pm**.

Signed …………… Date …………… (Chairman).